

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 R

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DRAFTED BY:S/S-O:CARY

APPROVED BY:S/S-O:JOHNSON

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R 161657Z APR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T STATE 081406

EXDIS

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION TO ALL NATO CAPITALS APR 9, 1975 FROM
SECSTATE REPEATED TO YOU:

QUOTE S E C R E T STATE 081406

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO

SUBJECT: PROSPECTIVE NATO SUMMIT

REF: USNATO 1909

1. FOLLOWING ARE POINTS USED HERE IN LAST WEEK IN
DISCUSSIONS WITH UK, FRG, BELGIAN AND CANADIAN REPS
WHICH YOU MAY DRAW ON TO EXPLAIN US VIEWS AND, AS
REQUIRED, TO GAIN SUPPORT FOR UK SUMMIT IDEA:

-- SEVERAL WEEKS AGO, THE ALLIES BEGAN CONSIDERATION
OF WHETHER AND WHEN TO HOLD A NATO SUMMIT IN
CONNECTION WITH THE CSCE. THE CHOICES WERE JUST
BEFORE OR JUST AFTER A CSCE, OR DISCONNECTED FROM
THE CSCE ON MAY 29-30, THE DATES RESERVED FOR SPRING
MINISTERIAL. OUR OWN VIEWS HAVE BEEN INFLUENCED BY

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UNCERTAINTIES SURROUNDING THE DATE OF CSCE SUMMIT,
SHOULD ONE BE AGREED UPON, AND THE DIFFICULTIES OF

COORDINATING THE SCHEDULES OF HEADS OF GOVERNMENT.
IT THUS SEEMED BETTER TO OPT FOR A FIRM DATE NOW.
WE SAW SOME MERIT IN THE ARGUMENT THAT CONNECTING
TOO CLOSELY IN TIME A NATO TO A CSCE SUMMIT WOULD
RESULT IN TOO MUCH ATTENTION BEING GIVEN TO CSCE AT
THE EXPENSE OF OTHER IMPORTANT

NATO BUSINESS.

-- MOREOVER, THERE IS A GOOD DEAL TO DISCUSS AMONG
ALLIES NOW THAT, IN OUR VIEW, MERITS SUMMIT LEVEL
ATTENTION.

PRODUCTIVE DISCUSSIONS COULD BE HELD ON EAST-WEST
LATIONS GENERALLY, INCLUDING CSCE AND MBFR, AND ALSO MORE
GENERAL DEVELOPMENTS, INCLUDING THOSE IN THE
MIDDLE EAST, WHICH HAVE A BEARING ON THE INTERESTS OF
THE ALLIES. NATO HEADS OF GOVERNMENT COULD ALSO
REVIEW GENERAL ECONOMIC AND ENERGY QUESTIONS IN THE
WAKE OF IEA AND OECD MINISTERIALS.

-- AS TO FORMAT, OUR VERY TENTATIVE THINKING IS THAT
A NATO SUMMIT COULD FOLLOW MUCH THE SAME FORMAT,
INCLUDING AGENDA, AS WOULD A MINISTERIAL. OF COURSE,
THESE ARE ALL MATTERS WHICH WILL HAVE TO BE WORKED
OUT IN DETAIL ONCE A DECISION IN PRINCIPLE IS MADE
TO HOLD A SUMMIT.

-- IN DECIDING WHETHER TO HOLD A NATO SUMMIT, WE
BELIEVE IT ALSO IMPORTANT TO BEAR IN MIND PUBLIC
OPINION. WARSAW PACT MEMBERS WILL BE ESPECIALLY
ACTIVE AT MOST SENIOR LEVEL DURING THE MONTH OF MAY,
WITH V-E DAY CELEBRATIONS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES WHICH
WILL BE DESIGNED TO CAPTURE ATTENTION OF THE MEDIA.
ALLIES, FOR THEIR PART, MUST BE SEEN TO BE RESPONDING
TO AN ARRAY OF SERIOUS ISSUES BEARING ON THEIR LONGER
TERM SECURITY AND COHESION.

-- MESSAGE TO THE PUBLIC WILL BE CONVEYED THROUGH
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THE FACT OF THE SUMMIT, AS WELL AS IN COMMUNIQUE AT
ITS CLOSE. WHILE WE DO NOT HAVE IN MIND A DECLARATION,
IT DOES OCCUR TO US THAT SOME CARE WILL HAVE TO BE
TAKEN TO CONVEY A SENSE OF ALLIED PURPOSE AND DIRECTION
THROUGH THE COMMUNIQUE.

2. FOR PARIS: WE PREFER TO DEFER FOR TIME BEING ANY
SPECIAL EFFORT TO DEAL WITH LEVEL OF FRENCH
REPRESENTATION.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, ALLIANCE, COLLECTIVE SECURITY, SUMMIT MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE081406
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O:CARY
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: I
Film Number: D750124-0077
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750465/aaaachyo.tel
Line Count: 116
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 USNATO 1909
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 APR 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <23 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <23 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROSPECTIVE NATO SUMMIT
TAGS: PFOR, US, NATO, CSCE
To: NATO POSTS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006